Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1993

E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2025 Volume 21, Issue 2
February 2025 (Whole #241)

Stepping back in time to a bygone era of the Liberty Seated coin design period, both far and wide, and a little before & after…

See pages 7-9 for these lovely beauties at the heart of someone's Liberty Seated affection.

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

Contents inside this E-Gobrecht Issue...

President's Message by Len Augsburger	Page 4
Editor's Viewpoint: View From The Rim by Paul Kluth	5
Club Announcements / Membership Application	6, 25-29
The Curious Collector: Eye Candy for Valentine's Day by Len Augsburger	7-8
Affection for an 1840-O Quarter & History by Craig Eberhart	9
Letter to the Club from the U.S. Mint & early tavern images	10
Regional News: Looking Forward to the ANA Winter Show in Atlanta by Ken Otto	11-14
Cookeville Coin Show & Counterstamped L.S. Coin Display	15-16
PRESS RELEASE - Pre-Sale Announcement for the March 22nd Gerry Fortin Auction Sale incl. retrospective of Gerry Fortin's collecting career	17-19
Still the Only Affordable Half Dollar Series to Collect by Jim Koenings	20
The Liberty Seated Coinage – The New Steam Presses by Craig Sholley	21-25
LSCC Hall of Fame Nominations Announcement	25
1849 Counterfeit Liberty Seated Dollars Reported by Jack Young, announcement by John Frost	26
Club News Bulletins: New LSCC Website Goes Live / ANA Summer Seminar 2025 - New Class Offered, "The New Orleans Mint Coinage and its History"	27 28
PRESS RELEASE - EPNNES Grant Application Period Open	28
Advertising Rates & Article Submission Deadlines	29
2025 Regional Coin Show Event Calendar	30
LSCC Member Advertisers	3-7
LSCC & Publication Information	31

E-Gobrecht's 21st Year 2004-2025

Welcome to the following new LSCC Member(s) this month:

Steve Farrell
Andy Kowal
Richard Long
Dustin Moore
Adam Phillips
Bob Serman
Michael Williams
Jack Young

There are currently 1499 active Subscribers to E-Gobrecht & counting including 352 local coin clubs across the country*

* Who will be subscriber #1500… where another email doesn't drop out?

The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated U.S. Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this "electronic" e-mail newsletter from various sources "free of charge" as a general service to the membership and other subscribers with a numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available on a complimentary basis to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information for LSCC and this publication can be found on the last page.

NASHUA
COINS & COLLECTIBLES
Bi-monthly auctions live and online!
202 Main Street, Nashua NH
Gary Galbo – 603-718-1018

Current Auction – Closes February 22, 2025

90+ Liberty Seated and 100+ Barbers
Half dimes to Trade dollars

Bid Online – nashuacoins.hibid.com/auctions

[Editor's Note]: Gary Galbo's upcoming coin auction is well worth investigating as he is offering a wonderful collection of Liberty Seated and Barber series coins in all denominations for the collector.

Gary is LSCC member #2548 and has been a member since 2016. He regularly attends various coin shows including the Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Expo where I first met him. He is a great supporter of the LSCC and his local area Nashua Coin Club in Nashua, NH. His store is a well-respected coin business in the Northeast.

For those who might not be aware, HiBid is a very convenient way to safely bid on-line for all types of antique/vintage/numismatic auctions across the country.

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

President's Message

Welcome to the February issue of the E-Gobrecht. The Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania groundhog tells us that six more weeks of winter are coming, so this might be a good time to pull out a few coins and examine them more carefully?

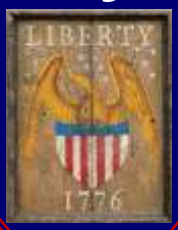
Identify what you like, what you don't like, and adjust your collecting strategy accordingly. As my regular column this month relates, playing at the top end of the market is no sure path to success. Rather, the secret is to stay in your lane and learn as much as you can about your specific corner of the market.

Please remember to pay your 2025 LSCC dues if you have not yet done so, at lsccweb.org. Vote for your favorite articles in The Gobrecht Journals for 2024 also while you are at it *...Len A.*

Brian Greer
Quality Collector Coins
Check out our website
BrianGreerRareCoins.com
We have a large inventory for all denominations of Liberty Seated coinage
Brian Greer – LSCC #716
(515) 331-3534
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST, weekdays

Editor's View From the Rim

I Love LIBERTY,
but Hate Tyranny,
especially when it's
embedded in our
Country... PK



LIBERTY 1776
Colonial Tavern Sign

"Independence Hall in Philadelphia" painting by Ferdinand Richardt (1858-63)

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LSCC Officer Elections

As we do every two years, the LSCC officer election is taking place now.
A ballot was enclosed in the Fall 2024 Gobrecht Journal.
Elections will be held for all officer positions, which include:
President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Barber Coin Collectors' Society
Founded 1989

BCCS Club Meetings, Club Table and Educational Programs are held at most of the LSCC coin show events, and their table is usually next to the LSCC Table for your convenience.

The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Eye Candy for Valentine's Day

Our editor Paul Kluth asked that we write about our favorite Liberty Seated coin for this month's issue. I've always been partial to this 1850 proof quarter, which has been part of the Pittman, Kaufmann, and Gardner collections. The coin has made a few auction appearances in recent years, and I've always made a point to examine this piece whenever an auction viewing opportunity arises. As amazing as the images are (courtesy of Heritage Auctions), the coin is even better in person.

The surfaces are virtually perfect, the color is obvious, and the luster is all there. Truly a wonder coin. In terms of rarity, the story is equally compelling, with only four known examples. Remarkably, Gene Gardner owned three of these pieces, and no doubt was prepared to acquire the fourth if the opportunity ever arose.

The coin has appeared frequently in recent years, in an NGC68 PR holder, or graded as PCGS PR67 CAC. Some coins have trouble finding a "home," and this is one of them. Proof coins prior to 1858 are delicacies, and the market is thin. You need at least two bidders to make an auction, and

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pricing can be volatile. The history for this coin is this (thanks to Heritage, PCGS Coin Facts, and Newman Portal for the following data):

$143,000: John Jay Pittman (David Akers, 5/1998), lot 1317

$460,000: Phil Kaufman Collection / FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2008), lot 3035

$258,500: Greensboro Collection, Part IV (Heritage, 8/2013), lot 5591

$223,250: Eugene H. Gardner Collection, Part I (Heritage, 6/2014), lot 30406

Did not sell: FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2015), lot 4099 (reserve price $200,000)
Did not sell: ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2015), lot 4036 (reserve price $180,000)

$169,222: CSNS Signature (Heritage, 5/2016) , lot 4634

As amazing as this coin is, it's been a poor investment for several of its owners. Pittman and Kaufmann achieved spectacular results, but after that it's not a pretty picture. The biggest winner here seems to be Heritage, which has collected four commissions on the same coin! Coin dealers like to say stuff like "buy the best you can afford," but, in this case, history tells a different story. That said, I do think this coin is an excellent value at the most recent price ($169,222) and suspect it would do better if presented for auction today.

(END)

Valentine's Day Affection for an 1840-O Quarter & its History

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1271

More than 20 years ago I was assembling a high-grade New Orleans type set, which, of course, included a no motto with drapery Liberty Seated quarter. I had several uncirculated examples that "filled the hole" but none were particularly exciting. I finally saw the quarter I wanted in a 2008 Heritage Long Beach auction. It was an 1840-O in an NGC MS63 Star holder. I was one of the underbidders because it sold for much more than I expected. However, a couple of years later it appeared on the Pinnacle Rarities website. I immediately called Kathleen Duncan and bought it at the next major coin show.

I showed the coin to several friends, including Len Augsburger who called a few weeks later when he found the coin in the 1985 Jimmy Hayes auction. This Stack's sale was one of the early auctions with color plates which provided a definitive match. As a raw coin it was cataloged as "gem brilliant uncirculated".

This quarter was crossed to PCGS and the Jimmy Hayes provenance was added to the holder. Several years later I sent the coin to CAC for stickering thinking that it had a chance to get a gold sticker, but not even a green sticker (twice!). I kept this New Orleans type set together for several years, but any significant upgrades would require sacrificing other parts of my collection, which I was not willing to do. As I broke up this set, I consigned several to the April 2020 Central Sates Heritage auction. I regretted this decision to include the 1840-O quarter almost immediately and even more so when the Covid pandemic seemed to depress prices. I didn't think I would ever own this coin again, but it reappeared in the Stack's Bowers August 2024 sale. I bought it again, sent it to CAC, again, with an appeal emphasizing that the coin was essentially identical to the color plate from 1985 and finally got a green bean. It was love at first sight and now at the heart of my collection!

(END)

Letter to the Club from the U.S. Mint (dated November 14, 2024):

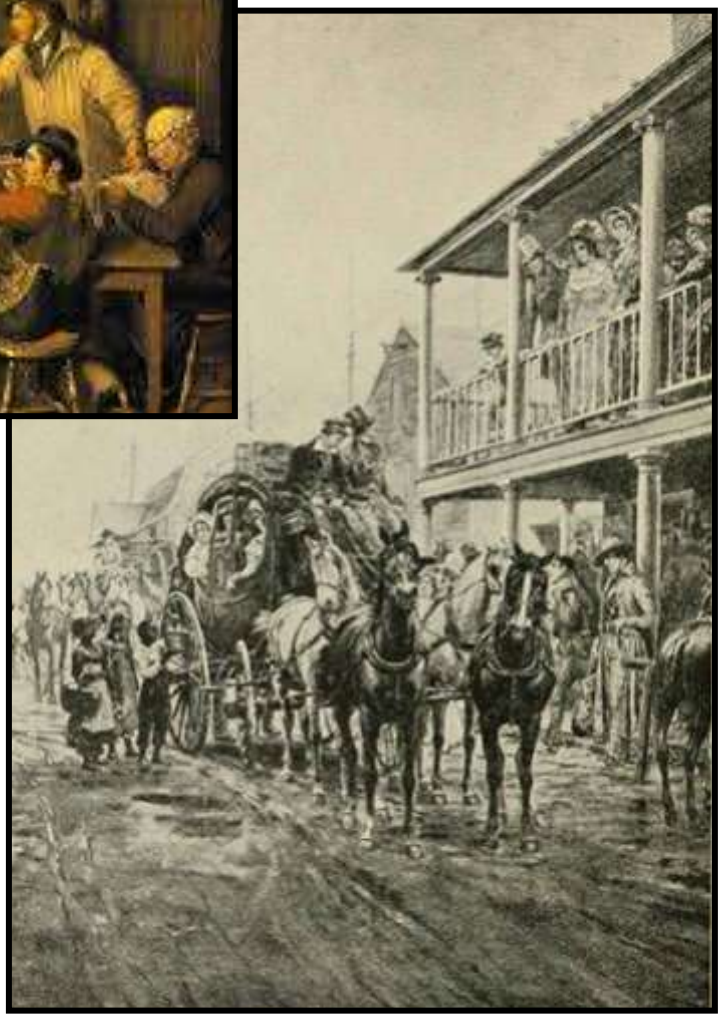
Dear Len and John and to all the members of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club:

Thank you so much for inviting us to your ceremony honoring Christian Gobrecht. It was a pleasure to see you again and to meet your colleagues and club members. The ceremony was beautiful, as were your remarks and the new grave marker, and it was the perfect memorial to such a distinguished and remarkable artist and innovator. Our Superintendent, artists and Mint team were honored to attend.

Thanks again for having us. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Tim Grant
Exhibits and Public Affairs
U.S. Mint

Early American Tavern images where Liberty Seated coinage readily circulated



Regional News

by Ken Otto, Regional Team Director, LSCC #2674

Looking Forward to the ANA Winter Show in Atlanta

The LSCC Regional Program is in high gear over the next few months participating in several important regional coin shows, and major winter and spring coin shows including the ANA National Money Show, Whitman Baltimore and the Central States show. The ANA National Money Show in Atlanta is noteworthy since we will be setting up a Club table at this event for the first time in recent years.

The next major coin show on the LSCC Regional team's calendar will be the ANA National Money Show which will be held on February 27-March 1 at the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339. The Club table will be hosted by Dennis Fortier, John Frost and Ken Otto.

The Regional LSCC team will participate in the Whitman Baltimore Spring (March) Coin & Currency Expo to be held on March 27-29 at the Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. This is a major national show in the early spring and the LSCC will have a major presence at this event. The Club table will be hosted by John Frost, Dennis Fortier, Joe Casazza, Ken Otto and others.

The Regional LSCC team plans to participate in Georgia Numismatic Assoc.'s (GNA) annual coin show to be held April 11-13 at the Dalton Convention Center, 2211 Tony Ingle Pkwy, Dalton, GA 30720. The Club table will be hosted by Dennis Fortier and Ken Otto.

The LSCC team also plans to participate in the Northern Utah Coin Show to be held April 11-13 at the Marriott Courtyard Ogden, 247 24th Street, Ogden, UT 84401. Ernie Ely will host the club table.

(Continued on next page)

Regional News cont.

The LSCC team will participate in the New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo to be held April 18-19 at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. The Club table will be hosted by Joe Casazza and John Frost.

The LSCC team also plans to participate in the (CSNS) Central States Numismatic Society's 86th Annual Convention to be held April 23-26 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173. There will be a Club meeting at 9 AM on Friday, April 25 in the Prosperity Room with an Educational Program TBA. The Club table will be hosted by Dennis Fortier, Ken Otto and others.

* * * * *

The LSCC team participated in the Houston Money Show which was held January 17-18 at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe, TX. The Club table was hosted by John Frost who made educational presentations on Liberty Seated and Barber Quarters. Each year Dick Osburn graciously shares his bourse table for the LSCC/BCCS shared Club table in Houston. Dick is a specialist in both Liberty Seated Halves and Dollars, and wrote the highly respected reference book for Liberty Seated Dollars. (see 2 images next page).

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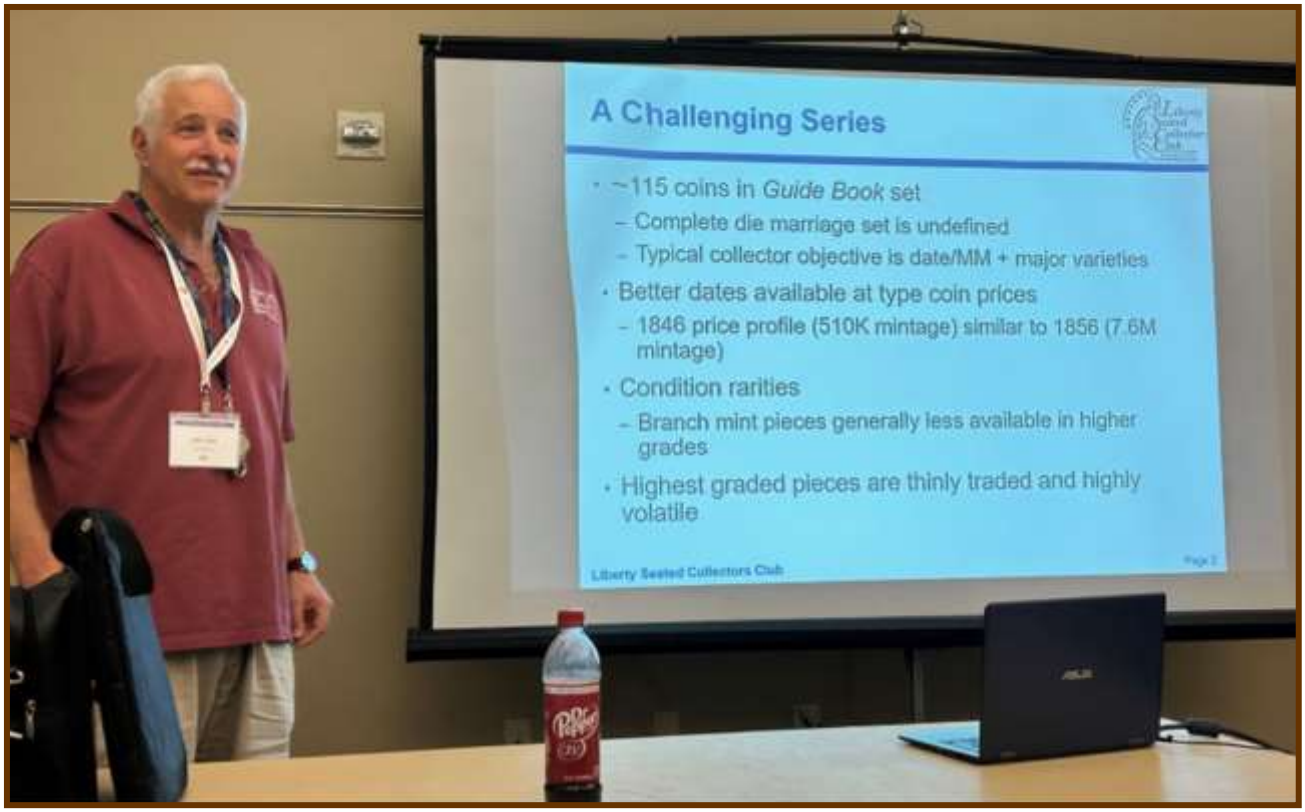
Regional News cont.


A Challenging Series
~115 coins in Guide Book set
Complete die marriage set is undefined
Typical collector objective is date/MM + major varieties
Better dates available at type coin prices
1846 price profile (510K mintage) similar to 1856 (7.6M mintage)
Condition rarities
Branch mint pieces generally less available in higher grades
Highest graded pieces are thinly traded and highly volatile
Liberty Seated Collectors Club

John Frost's Liberty Seated Quarter educational presentation in Houston [Editor] Note the all important 'Bottle of Fuel' for Coin Talks

Liberty Seated specialty collector/dealer Dick Osburn and John Frost from New England hosting for the LSCC/BCCS Clubs.

(Continued on next page)

Regional News cont.

The Regional team participated at the Wasatch Winter Coin Show which was held January 24-25, 2025 at the SLCC Miller Conference Center, 9750 300 West, Sandy, UT 84070. Ernie Ely hosted the Club table.

The LSCC team participated in the Knoxville Coin & Currency Show which was held on January 31-February 1 at the Rothchild Catering & Conference Center in Knoxville, TN. The Club table was hosted by Dennis Fortier and John Frost. The report from Dennis follows with the picture below:

"The Knoxville Show was well attended. It's a coin show that LSCC has been doing for about 11 years now and it is always great to see our friends in Tennessee. The Club table saw a good amount of interest with the Lane Bruner collection on display. A new LSCC member showed up at the table and brought the Norweb 1878-S PCGS-53 half dollar for us to see."

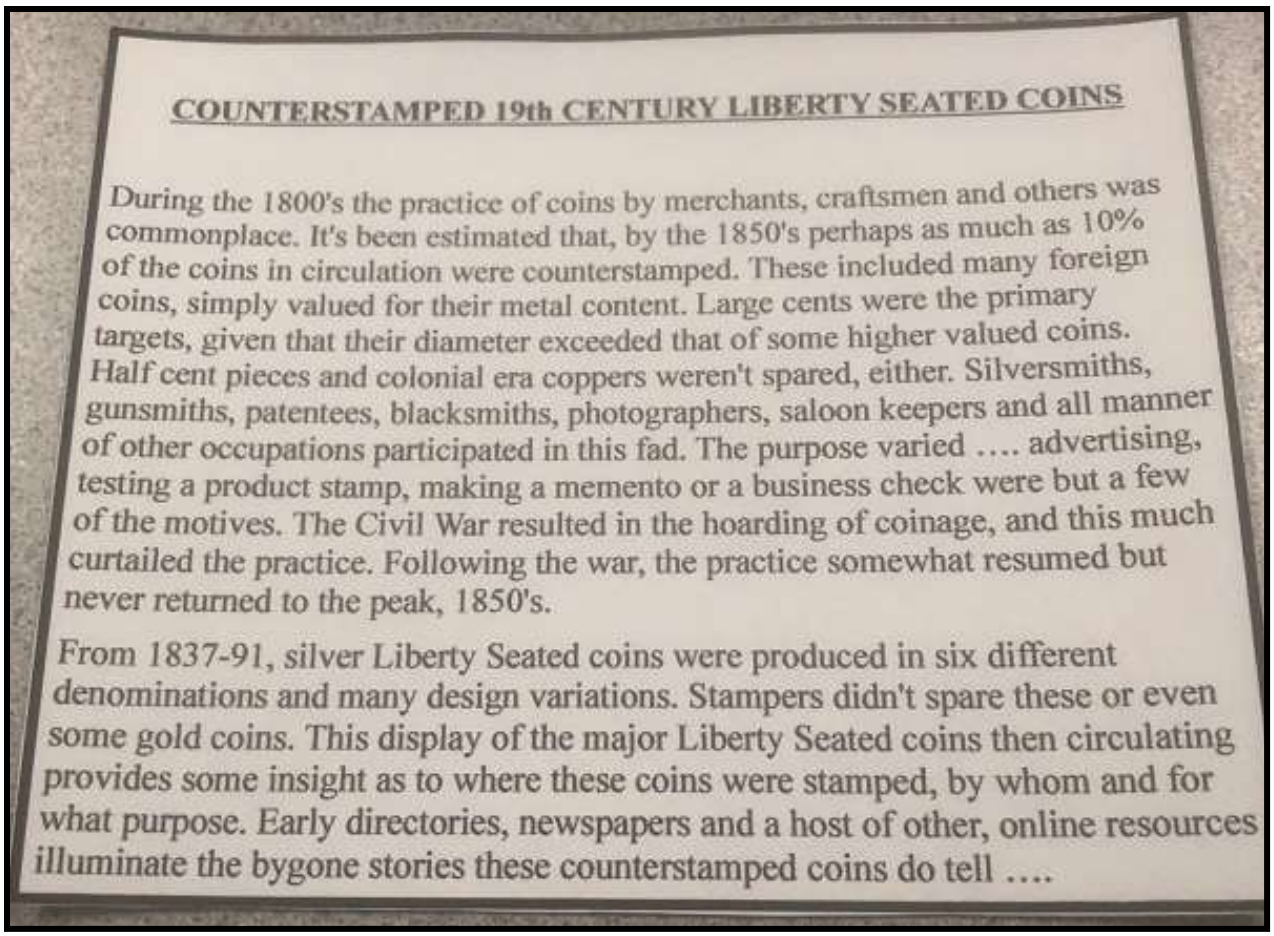
The LSCC team participated in the 2025 Charlotte Coin Club Annual Show which was held on February 6-8 at the Park Expo & Conference Center in Charlotte, NC. John Lundsten and Ken Otto hosted the Club table. Part of John Lundsten's set of Liberty Seated quarters were displayed at the table. The overall activity at the Club table was good and one prospective new member indicated his intention to join the LSCC online on our website.

(END)

Cookeville Coin Show on February 15, 2025

[Editor]: Due to the timing of this February issue, we were not able to get the event notice for the Cookeville Coin Club's Coin Show (TN) into the regular Regional Report and Event Calendar. The LSCC has had a Club table at this event for a few years now and it again was hosted by Dennis Fortier, VP.

The show was held this past Saturday on February 15, 2025 at the Cookeville Community Center, 240 Carlen Drive, Cookeville, TN 38501. This year, there was a nice Liberty Seated coin display highlighted by some extra nice 'Counterstamped' various denominations. More on this past show next month, but take a look at these very interesting examples that were on display:



COUNTERSTAMPED 19th CENTURY LIBERTY SEATED COINS

During the 1800's the practice of coins by merchants, craftsmen and others was commonplace. It's been estimated that, by the 1850's perhaps as much as 10% of the coins in circulation were counterstamped. These included many foreign coins, simply valued for their metal content. Large cents were the primary targets, given that their diameter exceeded that of some higher valued coins. Half cent pieces and colonial era coppers weren't spared, either. Silversmiths, gunsmiths, patentees, blacksmiths, photographers, saloon keepers and all manner of other occupations participated in this fad. The purpose varied .... advertising, testing a product stamp, making a memento or a business check were but a few of the motives. The Civil War resulted in the hoarding of coinage, and this much curtailed the practice. Following the war, the practice somewhat resumed but never returned to the peak, 1850's.

From 1837-91, silver Liberty Seated coins were produced in six different denominations and many design variations. Stampers didn't spare these or even some gold coins. This display of the major Liberty Seated coins then circulating provides some insight as to where these coins were stamped, by whom and for what purpose. Early directories, newspapers and a host of other, online resources illuminate the bygone stories these counterstamped coins do tell ....

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USE
C.G.G.
I.B.B
ST.LOUIS
MO
WETTS
DRUGGIST
SACRAMENTO CAL
SPRAGUE & BLODGETT'S
ADMIT
ONE
GEORGIA MINSTRELS
N. DEHAVEN
1880
R.I. LOMAS

(END)

Press Release (January 30, 2025):

Pre-Sale Announcement for the March 22, 2025 Gerry Fortin Auction Sale including a retrospective of Gerry Fortin's collecting career

Collector reflects on Lifelong Journey

Collecting arcs are as numerous as collectors themselves, though to be sure many of us share common experiences. As with most collectors of his generation, Gerry Fortin plucked pennies and nickels out of change and filled the ubiquitous Whitman albums. Lawn mowing and snow shoveling supplemented the coin budget for occasional purchases from local dealers. High school brought the distractions of driving and dating, combining the ultimate symbol of American independence with the pressure of a busy social life.

Adult collectors have a way of returning to the hobby after launching professional careers and families, and such was the case for Fortin. With his collection stored away in the attic, Fortin's reintroduction to the hobby came in 1987 when his mother-in-law presented a roll of Morgan dollars to each of her children. Gerry's reaction was visceral. "When I was a kid, I could not afford a Morgan dollar," he recalled, and here was an entire roll! Fortin returned to the fold as a Morgan dollar collector, but did not find the pursuit significantly challenging. "You'd go to a coin show, there's Morgan dollars everywhere," Fortin remembered.

Fortin was more motivated by rarity and history, with the Civil War as a focal point. He studied the Red Book carefully and settled on the Liberty Seated dime series as a pursuit that optimally combined the "thrill of the hunt" with an achievable goal of completion. Fortin was fortunate to connect early on with Bob Levi, proprietor of Maine Gold & Silver. By sheer coincidence, Levi was disbursing his personal set of Seated dimes, which he pieced out to Fortin as Gerry was able to make payments.

In 1989, Fortin joined the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) and acquired a copy of Kamal Ahwash's Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes (published in 1977), which at the time represented the most significant study of Seated dime varieties. "It was like a switch flipped," Gerry said, "and I was immediately addicted." Through John McCloskey, LSCC president, Fortin connected with Seated dime expert Brian Greer, who was working on a follow-up volume to the Ahwash reference. Greer was a valuable mentor, not only with respect to dime varieties, but also as a champion of the idea that connoisseurship is independent of one's budget. Training one's eye to find the best piece at a given grade level was more important than simply writing a check for the highest graded coin available. Fortin began studying the series more intensely and made contributions to Brian Greer's work, The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes, published in 1992.

Fortin describes his work on Liberty Seated dime varieties as a "stress reliever" from his professional career in the semiconductor industry. Fortin worked in various capacities at IBM, Fairchild, and National Semiconductor, where he gained experience in manufacturing operations and quality control. Fortin notes his analytical work in the semiconductor business was applicable to his study of dime varieties. "I was well versed in relational databases and sifting through those databases to get clues," Fortin said. "It was drilling down, assembling data, and building a story from the data." Fortin sought to apply the same skillset to numismatics and became laser-focused on the task of documenting every single die marriage in the Seated dime series.

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In 2004, Fortin released his "web book" of Liberty Seated dime varieties, which documented over a thousand different die marriages. Gerry released the "web book" as a CD, a novel approach at the time, as a print version would have been unwieldy and subject to constant updates. Following the release of the CD, Fortin received significant feedback from fellow collectors, which was in turn reflected in the live version of the work, now publicly available at **seateddimevarieties.com**. Brian Greer's earlier work came full circle in the web book, as Fortin had purchased a substantial portion of Greer's variety collection for reference purposes.

Fortin's set construction hit "pause" when the collector Gene Gardner began assembling his world-class Liberty Seated collection, c. 2005. Competing with Gardner for the best pieces was usually a losing proposition, even for those willing to pay market rates. The sale of the Gardner collection in 2014-2015 opened a brief window when Fortin was again able to acquire significant coins, until the collector Dell Loy Hansen entered the market and aggressively pursued finest known pieces in all U.S. denominations.

The San Francisco Civil War dates are among Fortin's favorite dimes. These coins are not rare in an absolute sense, but in Mint State the situation becomes challenging, as few examples were saved at the time of issue. Moreover, weak strikes are the rule in this era, with the 1865-S dime being the poster child for soft heads and weakly impressed wreaths. Fortin was able to pick off exceptional, well-struck pieces in the 1990s and 2000s, when the population reports were less mature and such opportunities were known only to astute collectors of the series. These coins have sharply advanced in value in the ensuing years. Predicting the coin market is anything but straightforward, though Fortin suggests CAC-approved gold coinage, particularly issues with populations under 20 examples, as an area for future growth.

After leaving Fairchild in 2006, Fortin relocated to China for six years, where he worked for CSMC Technologies, a Chinese semiconductor manufacturer. After returning to the U.S., Gerry launched a rare coin dealership, Gerry Fortin Rare Coins. The growth of the business was facilitated in part by Gerry's son Matthew Fortin, who developed the software for the 'seateddimevarieties.com' site. This web site presents Gerry's work on Seated dime varieties, in addition to coins for sale, periodic auctions sales, and a prices-realized archive that is especially useful for Liberty Seated coinage.

In addition to listing new coins for sale, the Fortin site hosts the Daily Blog feature, which presents Fortin's running numismatic commentary on a regular basis. Gerry is a believer in the concept of accountability for coin collectors, which means owning one's mistakes, and taking responsibility for the disposition of one's collection, rather than leaving the task to heirs and estate administrators. Selling duplicates or uninformed purchases ensures accountability, as it provides valuable feedback on one's grasp of numismatic value and current market conditions.

Fortin practices what he preaches and is currently offering his frontline collection of Liberty Seated dimes in a series of three sales. The first session, concluded on January 19, 2025, included an 1860-O PCGS AU50 CAC example, the fourth highest certified by CAC, which sold at $16,000. An 1870-S dime, graded PCGS MS65 CAC, sold for $12,000.

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Subsequent sessions take place March 22 and May 10. Highlights of the March 22 session include an 1845-O dime graded PCGS AU 55 Gold CAC, which comes with the Pittman pedigree (shown below). An 1865 dime in PCGS MS67 CAC is tied for finest known at CAC, while the ever-popular Carson City series is represented by an 1871-CC dime graded PCGS EF45 CAC (also shown below). Most pieces in the Fortin collection will be found in higher Mint State grades, with CAC certification, including a number of Gold CAC examples.

This Sale represents the most significant offering of Liberty Seated dimes since the Gene Gardner sales and will draw considerable interest among Liberty Seated collectors and dime specialists alike. Additional sale details are available at: **seateddimevarieties.com/auction.html**

(END)

Still the Only Affordable Half Dollar Series to Collect
"Gobrecht" Bust Half Dollars #16
Commonly Known as Reeded Edge Half Dollars
by Jim Koenings, LSCC # 2798 & JRCS # 048

Newsletter #64 (December 15, 2024) provided 24 LSCC members with the 2nd Update on Rarity Values for Reeded Edge Half Dollars since Dick Graham wrote his book in 2012. This Update was based on 15 years of recording "Records of Sales" and my 2024 Census for Reeded Edge Half Dollars.

On January 14, 2025, Heritage Auctions offered the Tower Collection which included 617 of the finest ever assembled Lettered Edge Capped Bust Half Dollars and sub-varieties plus 40 Reeded Edge Half die marriages. All Reeded Edge Halves were AU55 and higher with many in the Condition Census. This was the most important sale since Jules Reiver's Collection by Heritage Auction on January 30, 2006.

I was shocked by the results of the Tower Collection and will provide highlights of the results in my Newsletter #65 on February 15, 2025. Armed with the information learned from the Heritage Auction Tower Collection, Newsletter #65 will provide Reeded Edge Half Collectors with a Price Guide for future use. Currently, collectors are paying too much for "Common" Reeded Edge Halves and not enough for those in the "Top 15 Rarest".

On March 15, 2025, I will start a monthly email series on all 16 known 1838 die marriages. Currently, only 6 collectors have all 16 die marriages, and all are affordable for the average collector. Besides having updated information on all 16 die marriages, I will also offer 1 specimen of each die marriage for sale each month. Most collectors will be able to find 14 out of the 16 die marriages unattributed, in a relatively short period of time.

Any LSCC member that would like a copy of Newsletter #65 or future Newsletters may send their email address to:

bustcoin1@verizon.net

Happy Hunting!

The Liberty Seated Coinage – The New Steam Presses

by Craig Sholley, LSCC #1081

Introduction

Before discussing the rather incredible improvement in coining operations resulting from the installation of the new steam presses, it is first necessary to have at least some appreciation of the screw presses used by the mint from 1792 to 1836.

The mint began operations in 1792 in a building at John Harper's saw manufactory using one of the screw presses he would have employed for stamping parts. The mint's coinage building was completed on Sept. 7, 1792 and shortly thereafter workmen began installing the screw presses supplied by John Harper.

Harper had supplied at least two presses as implied by a notation in Chief Coiner Henry Voigt's account book that, on Sept. 21, "Flude began, after breakfast, trimming the heavy press." Voit's account book shows that an additional press arrived on April 1, 1793. These presses proved too light to strike anything but the cents, half cents, and the half dimes struck at Harper's, so the mint replaced all of them in 1794 and 1795 with far heavier presses.

As to the design and operation of the screw presses, most authors have unfortunately relied on the relatively crude drawings in Samuel Thompson's "Essay on Coining" or the drawing of an early 18th century press in Diderot's encyclopedia. However, a woodcut circa 1811 showing the operation of the screw presses in the British Tower Mint provide a much better view of the design and operation of later screw coining presses.

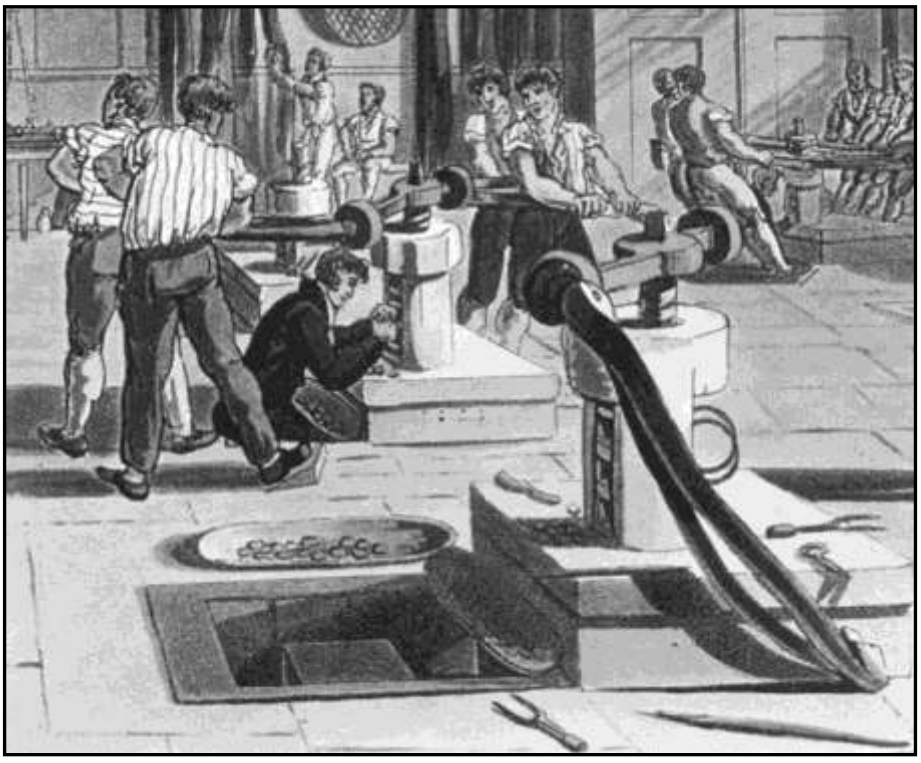

Figure 1. Tower Mint screw presses from Ackermann's "Microcosm of London" circa 1811.

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Records show that the U.S. and French mints had developed an "auto-feed" mechanism. Planchets were manually stacked into a "feed-tube" which then dropped them, one-by-one, into "feed-fingers." The fingers then extended into the press, dropping the planchet onto the lower die, ejecting the previously struck coin, and retracted back to pick up another planchet as the swing-arm was swung back-and-forth.

Presses had replaceable weights on the ends of the swing-arm to somewhat adjust the striking pressure, but the presses still had to be "sized" according to the size of the coin being struck. Smaller coins, such as cents and half cents, only required one man feeding and another swinging the arm.

Larger coins, such as half dollars, required one feeder and three to four men on the swing arm. Since the striking rate was only about 35 per minute, large volume minting required multiple presses and, obviously, a lot of men to operate those presses. Manual coining was a very labor-intensive operation.

The great British engineer Matthew Boulton was the first to solve the "labor problem," using a steam engine to drive the press and thus reducing the manpower required to a single person who merely kept the feed-tube filled with planchets. Despite Boulton's labor-saving, his presses were quite expensive and required a dedicated steam engine. Furthermore, the drive-mechanism was extremely complex and, as Franklin Peale noted in his 1835 report, very inefficient.

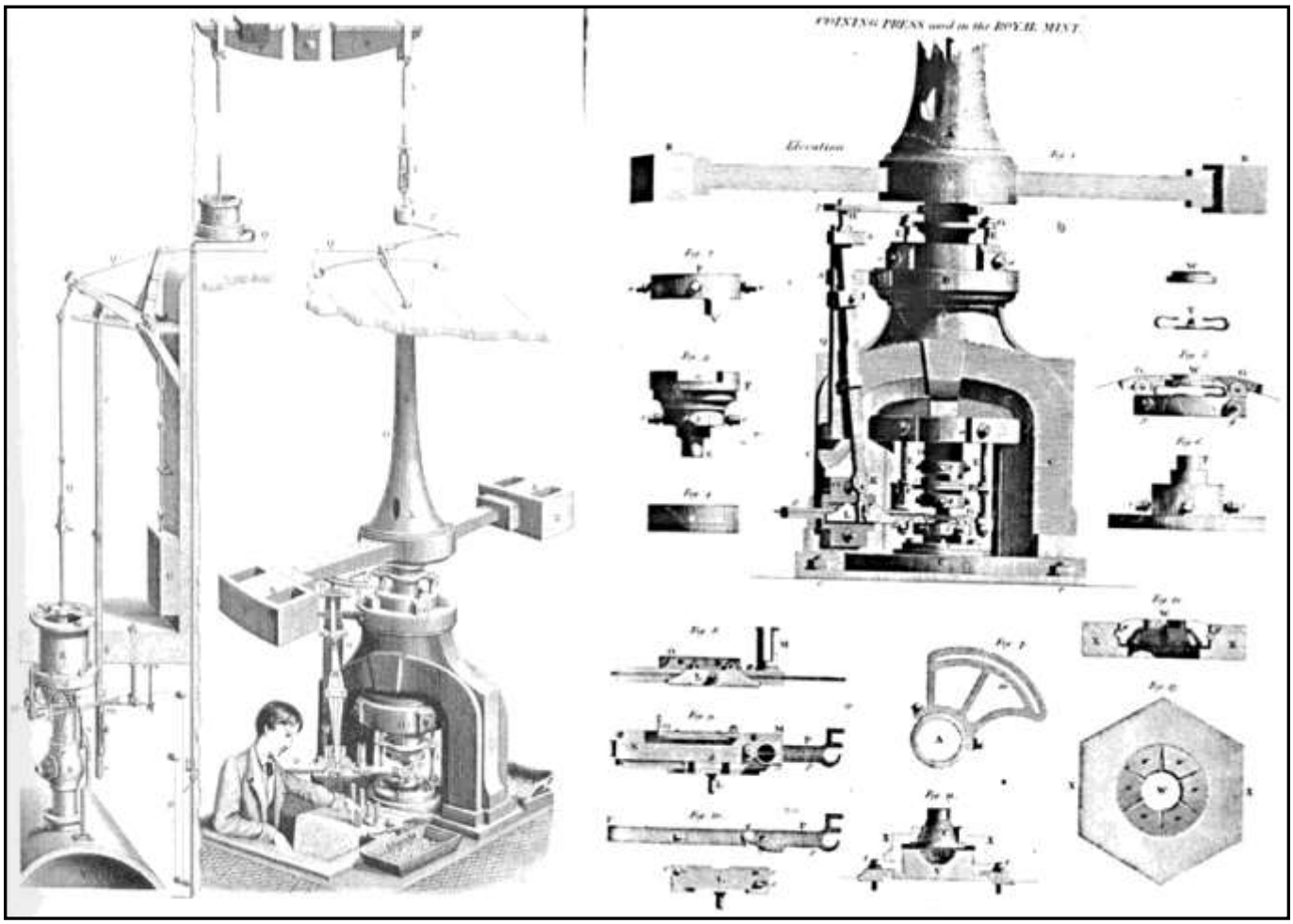

Figure 2. Boulton's steam-powered screw press.

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Additionally, the press was still a screw press with all the attendant problems of that design. The strike was still an impact resulting from the rapidly descending screw, and thus tough on dies. The planchet feeding mechanism was complex, as were the assemblies to depress the collar for ejection and to isolate the upper die from the torque of the screw.

Nonetheless, Boulton's design was "rock-solid" with quite a few of his presses still in operation for a hundred years or more. Moreover, they still were a vast improvement, not only saving labor, but at a striking rate of 60 per minute, nearly twice as fast as a manually-operated press.

By the mid-1820s, the expanding U.S. economy and political stability in Latin America led to a massive influx of silver bullion (and some gold) into the United States. This sudden influx began to place a serious strain on the Mint's capacity. The situation was further compounded by increasing production of gold in the southern states and it became apparent that the mint's current facilities and equipment could not meet the country's growing needs for coinage.

In 1827, as he was preparing cost estimates for a new mint, Director Samuel Moore wrote to Boulton about supplying presses. However, negotiations quickly hit two insurmountable sticking points. Moore demanded, that detailed drawings of the equipment be provided as part of the contract; a provision to which Boulton and Watt would not agree since the Americans could simply copy his design. Another problem was the Boulton's insistence that the Mint pay for the equipment in advance rather than on delivery and proof of operation. Neither side would budge and negotiations were dropped.

The New Steam Presses

A solution came about in May of 1833 when Moore decided to send Franklin Peale on a tour of the mints in England, Germany and France to review their equipment and overall operation. Contrary to popular myth, this trip was not an "industrial spy mission". Moore had written to our ministers in the respective nations seeking permission to visit and the nations were more than happy to cooperate. Not only was the U.S. a growing commercial market, but it was also becoming an important political and military force as well; friendly relations were a good idea.

During his travels, Peale reported back to Director Moore about the superior "Uhlhorn-type" presses he had seen in Germany and France. Named after Diederich Uhlhorn, who developed this type of press in 1812, these presses were a true fundamental improvement in minting technology. Uhlhorn's presses were so technologically superior that within a decade they came into wide use throughout Europe. In the Paris mint that Peale saw the Thonnelier press, there was yet a further refinement of the Uhlhorn design.

Rather than using the impact from a descending screw to accomplish the strike, these presses used the "squeeze" applied by a "knuckle joint". Furthermore, Ulhorn's design was as simple as it was elegant. The press was driven by simple belts and pullies directly from the steam engine's fly-wheel and the striking and feeding mechanisms were so mechanically efficient that it had less than half the parts of the Boulton's press.

Peale was so impressed with the speed and reliability of the Paris mint's Thonnelier design that he immediately wrote back to Director Moore extolling its virtues. Legend has it that Peale "stole" the design from the Paris mint by making detailed drawings of the press. However, another letter from Peale to Moore tells quite a different story. The French gave Peale the design even providing mint workers to help him in producing the drawings and explaining mechanical details, all that was asked is that Peale pay for their time, which, of course, he happily did.

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Upon Peale's return, Moore sought bids for their construction and subsequently placed a contract with the firm of Merrick, Agnew and Tyler for the construction of three Thonnelier presses. Rufus Tyler (who would later become the Chief Coiner of the New Orleans Mint) was the mechanic in charge of their construction.

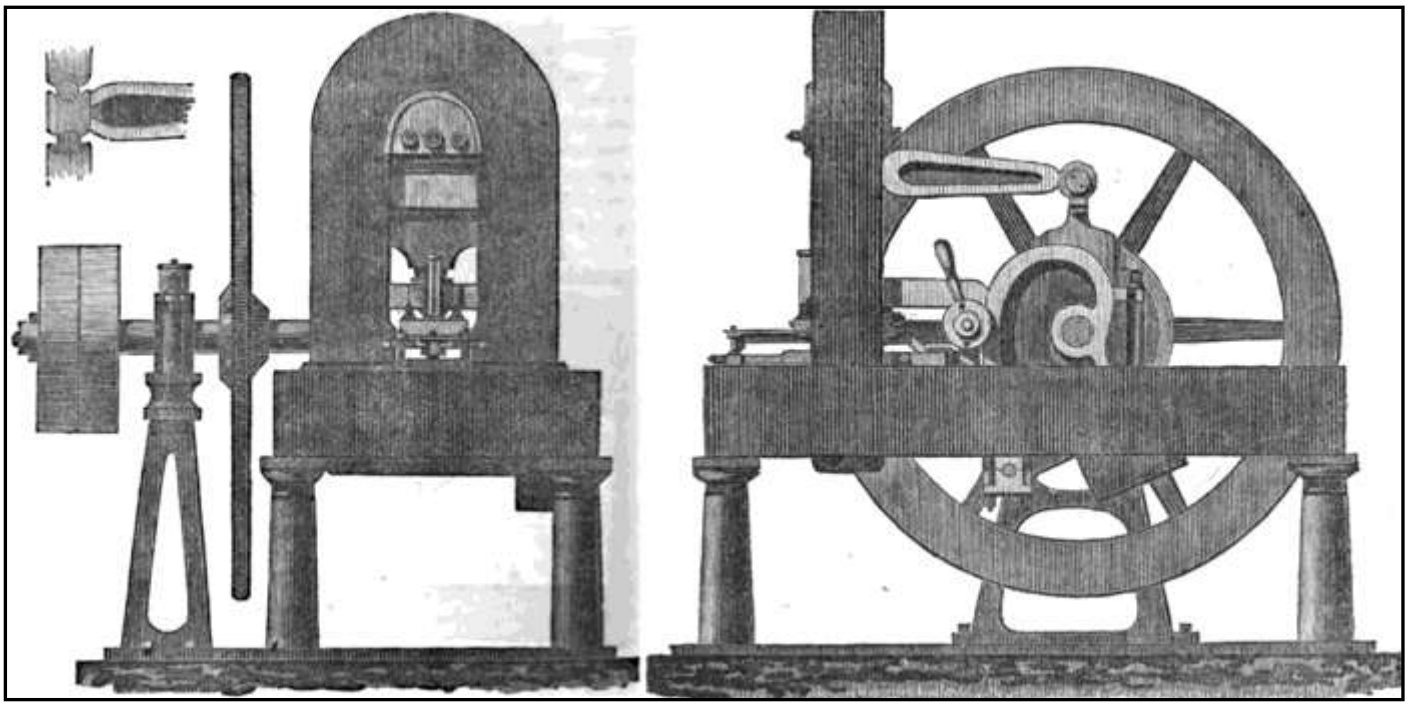

Figure 3. Left, front view of press showing the lever arm and knuckle-joint assembly in the upper left. Right, side view of press showing lever arm, driven by a crankshaft, which straightened the knuckle-joint at top, causing the strike.

The first press, used for cents and quarters, arrived in late January. There was an aborted test on Feb. 8, 1836, during which a few original "steam press tokens" were struck. As a result of the test, some minor modifications were made and on March 23rd, 1836 the press was fully operational and used to strike the majority of the steam press tokens. The first circulation coins struck on the press were cents, followed by quarters. Both coins were struck at the rate of 80 per minute, which was over twice the rate of a screw press and half again the rate of the Boulton and Watt presses.

In early November the mint tried to strike the new reeded-edge half dollars on the press; however, the flywheel was too small and could not store enough rotational energy to continuously strike the larger diameter coins. As Director Robert Maskell Patterson noted in a March 1, 1837 letter to George Newbold, president of the Bank of America and who was pressing for delivery of half dollars, "…we have occasionally used the press made for quarter dollars and cents in coining half dollars, but it halts & breaks down under the work, which is too heavy for it." The letter thus explains the small mintage of 1836 Reeded Edge half dollars.

Exactly when the half dollar and dollar press arrived is unknown, but on June 30, 1837, Director Patterson wrote to Secretary of the Treasury, Levi Woodbury, "One of the steam presses has coined 400,000 cents within the last two weeks, without interruption or accident, and our largest press has been coining half dollars with perfect success."

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The mint had also ordered a third press to be used for small gold and silver. I have not found exactly when that press arrived. However, the new presses were so successful that three more were ordered and the mint had six in operation by 1850. In a Sept. 10th memo of that year to Director Patterson, Chief Coiner Franklin Peale bragged that they had "never been occupied a tenth of the time…" While I would not put too much faith in Peale's braggadocio, the point is that the steam presses were vastly more efficient than the old screw presses.

In 1875, George Soley purchased the mint's first steam press as a relic, restored it, and used it to strike numerous small tokens which he sold for a quarter. Soley displayed the press at major events, including the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the Pan American Exposition in 190l, and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904. In 1927, the Franklin Institute acquired the press from his widow and refurbished it to run on electric. Aluminum tokens were struck for visitors dropping a small coin in a slot. I saw the press as a child, and if I recall correctly, the cost was a nickel or a dime.

During some research in the late 1990s, I rediscovered the press, confirmed that it was the first press by the engraved brass plate on the head stock noting it had been modified by David Gilbert in 1858. While the press was not operational at that point, it was a numismatic treasure. I immediately contacted the ANA and they were instrumental in getting Joe Rust and Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint Museum to restore the press. It was on display at the 2000 ANA Convention and is now on loan to the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs.

As those who saw it on display at the 2000 ANA will attest, the mechanism operates so smoothly it sounds much like a sewing machine. The loudest noise is that of the coins dropping into the collection box beneath the frame. It is an incredible work of engineering and manufacturing!

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Call for LSCC Hall of Fame Nominations for 2025 (Due by April 15)

Nominations are being accepted for the LSCC Hall of Fame. A Nomination Form must be received by April 15. For information about the Hall of Fame, requirements for nomination, and access to the Nomination Form, please visit the LSCC website, https://lsccweb.org/LSCC/Hall-of-Fame.

Questions or concerns regarding the LSCC Hall of Fame may be directed to Craig Eberhart, LSCC Vice President. Contact information is on the last page of this issue or send to:

Craig Eberhart at craig@eberhart.us or P.O. Box 1386, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Nominator _____ LSCC Member Yes / No
Nominee _____

Provide any of the following information to assist with the selection:

1. Time as LSCC Club Officer or Leader / Position
2. Collections Built, including grade and as many specifics as possible
3. Published Writings (Liberty Seated Books, Articles, etc.)
4. Club Contributions (promoting or assisting the LSCC in its mission)
5. Numismatic or LSCC Awards
6. Miscellaneous Data that might add to Nominee's consideration & Nominators Comments

The Return of Counterfeit 1849 Seated Dollars

Buyers Beware! LSCC member and counterfeit hunter Jack Young reports that the counterfeit 1849 Liberty Seated dollars discovered a few years ago have made their return to the market.

First reported in 2019, Jack identified a genuine holed 1849 Seated dollar, later repaired, that was the likely source of the counterfeits. Numerous die markers found on the original holed/repaired coin appear on numerous counterfeits. When originally reported, the counterfeits consisted of three certified and two raw coins. The first example was identified when an eBay item from a known "bad" seller was given a close look. The seller was later removed from eBay.

Now, Jack reports, "my past nightmare is coming back..." Jack has now found a Japanese eBay seller who has one in his sold listings, after Jack also found one of the bad 1798 large cents for sale. Here are some additional recent images. Again, Buyer Beware. Thank you Jack for bringing this to our attention.

For a detailed description and a 1-page attribution guide, see Jack's online CoinWeek article, at: https://coinweek.com/struck-counterfeit-coins-1849-liberty-seated-dollar-1-page-attribution-guide/

Club News Bulletin: NEW LSCC WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

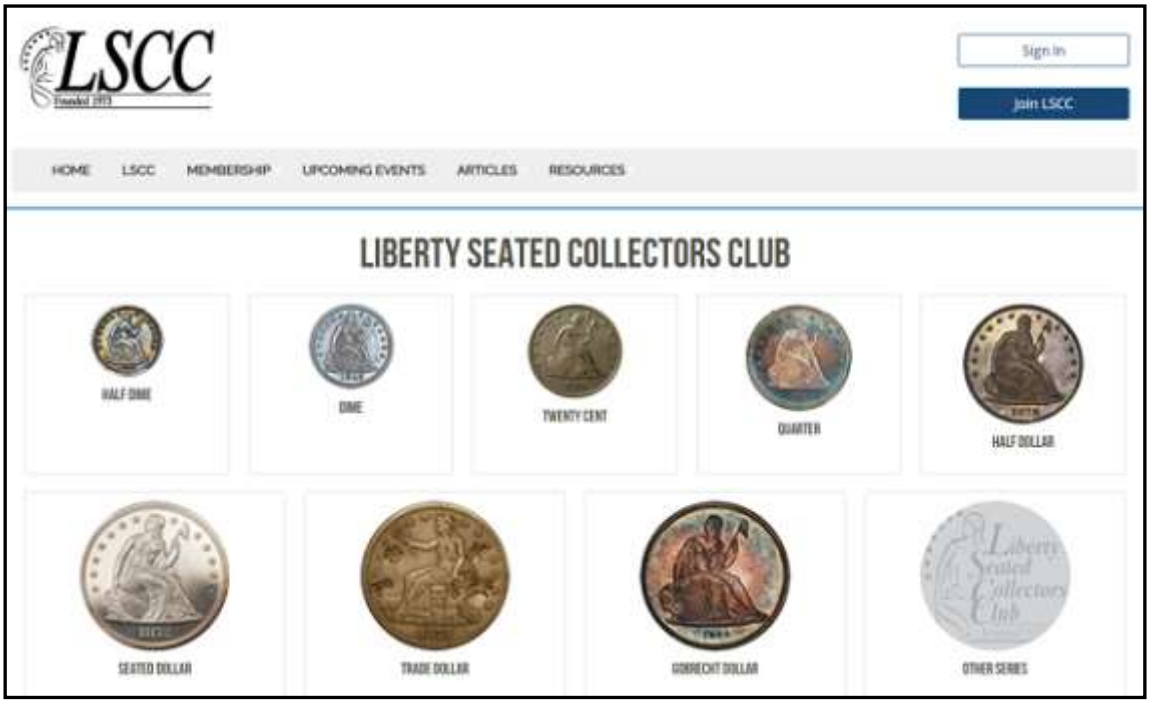
The Liberty Seated Collectors Club is proud to announce the launch of its new LSCC website, **lsccweb.org**. This two-year project was completed by a team of LSCC members and consultants, including the Moore Creative Company and Fry Archive Services.

LSCC is leading other coin clubs again with this new technology, which offers convenient, on-line dues payment. You can now pay your dues by following the prompts, which will avoid long delays and miscommunication. Please help keep our administrative costs down and push the easy button --- pay your dues on-line!

In addition to renewing your dues, as an LSCC member, you can explore approximately half of the *Gobrecht Journal* articles that have been published over the last 50 years. These articles are conveniently indexed by date, denomination, and topic. You can search for a specific date and mintmark, varieties, or past collections that have been showcased in the *Gobrecht Journal*.

Even if you do not owe dues at this time, you can still vote for the LSCC Literary Awards and Club Officers using the website. Award voting is typically very close, and, in more than one case, awards have been decided by a single vote. Make your vote count!

We are pleased to offer these new services to the members, and thank you for your continued support of LSCC! **The website Home page is shown below.**



Press Release (January 12, 2025): **Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society Invites Applications for Newman Grants**

The Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNES) announces the opening of the application period for the 2025 Newman Grant program. Newman Grants are designed to financially assist numismatic authors and organizations pursuing original research in American numismatics. This program was launched in 2019 and supports research projects related to colonial numismatics, U.S. federal coinage, counterfeit detection and other areas.

Authors, researchers, and numismatic organizations are encouraged to apply for amounts between $1,000 and $5,000. Awards may be applied toward related research costs including but not limited to photography, reproduction of research material and graphic art services, database access fees, and travel.

Electronic publications will be preferred as EPNNES wishes to direct funds toward expenses specifically related to numismatic research, rather than the print publication of research. Newman Grant awardees agree to non-exclusive publication of their research on the Newman Numismatic Portal (NewmanPortal.org). EPNNES intends to make approximately half a dozen grants in 2025.

The Newman Grant program is administered for EPNNES by the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP). Applications may be found on the Newman Numismatic Portal at: https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/archivedetail/530553?Year=2025, and should be submitted to NNPCurator@wustl.edu. The application deadline is **April 15, 2025**, with the grant awards to be announced on May 25, 2025, coincident with the late Eric P. Newman's birthday.

It is the hope of EPNNES that this program will continue the legacy of Eric P. Newman in a way that would reflect his high standards for numismatic research.

ANA Summer Seminar 2025 — New Class!

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) and the Barber Coin Collectors' Society (BCCS) will be offering a new class during Session 1 at the 2025 ANA Summer Seminar, June 21-26, in Colorado Springs:

The New Orleans Mint Coinage and its History

This course will cover the coins and the history of the New Orleans Mint from its origin in 1835 to its final closure in 1909. The silver and gold coins produced at the New Orleans Mint are comparable to the Philadelphia Mint both in type and quantity. From arduous early days marked by epidemics and deaths, a struggle to mint coins with limited dies being stored in tropical conditions, to changing hands three times during the Civil War, its complicated history is written in its coins. The course will include discussions of the 40 (or so) types of New Orleans coins, individual dates, major varieties, hands-on attribution exercises, and grading discussions.

Instructors: Craig Eberhart (LSCC Secretary), Len Augsburger (LSCC President) and John Frost (BCCS President).

This class should fill up quickly. Sign up today at: money.org/summer-seminar

Monthly E-Gobrecht Newsletter Advertising Rates

(Prices are per issue. All ads should include some Liberty Seated coins and/or related material.)

Full Page	**$100**
Half Page	**$ 50**
Quarter Page	**$ 30**

Inquires & Special Rates: Contact Advertising Manager Jeff Pritchard at jjpsr2@gmail.com

Deadline: 25th of the month prior to month of issue

For Advertising in The Gobrecht Journal, see contact above.

Try out the new LSCC Website! by John Lundsten

NEWS BULLETIN: See page 27 as the new LSCC Website is now LIVE!

The new LSCC website has gone fully active. It was demonstrated at the ANA during the Club meeting. This new website can be accessed from the existing LSCC website (Membership/Payments) or http://lscc.tempdevlocation.com. The new website allows members to verify the expiration date of their LSCC membership, renew your membership and receive instant verification.

LSCC New Website & Member Application is at: http://www.lsccweb.org

E-Gobrecht Deadline for Subscriber Submissions

30th of the month prior to month of issue

Send Submissions to: Paul Kluth, Editor
e-gobrecht@msn.com

Next Deadline for Submissions to The Gobrecht Journal:
Summer 2025 - June 1st
Send Inquiries & Submissions to: lscc@lsccweb.org

LSCC 2025 Regional Events Calendar

February 27-March 1 ANA National Money Show, Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA - Club table hosted by Dennis Fortier, John Frost and Ken Otto.

March 27-29 Whitman Spring Baltimore Coin & Currency Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD - Club meeting on Friday at 9 am, Educational program & Club table hosted by a large contingent of LSCC officers and members including John Frost, Dennis Fortier, Joe Casazza and Ken Otto.

April 11-13 **Georgia Numismatic Association's (GNA) Annual Coin Show**, Dalton Convention Center, Dalton, GA - Club table hosted by Dennis Fortier and Ken Otto.

April 11-13 Northern Utah Coin Show, Marriott Courtyard Ogden, Ogden, UT - Club table hosted by Ernie Ely.

Christian Gobrecht

April 18-19 New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo, Doubletree Manchester Downtown, Manchester, NH - Club table hosted by Joe Casazza and John Frost.

April 23-26 **(CSNS) Central States Numismatic Society's 86th Annual Convention**, Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg, IL - Club meeting on Friday at 9 am, Educational program & Club table hosted by a large contingent of LSCC officers and members.

*** More event details and addresses of show locations are in **Ken Otto's Regional Report starting on page 11. Also see** either or both the LSCC / BCCS websites.

(END)

William Barber

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Director - Western Region
Open Position

Director - Central Region
Dennis Fortier (email above)

Liberty Seated Collectors Club Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lsccweb.org
LSCC email address: lscc@lsccweb.org

LSCC Membership Information: Dues are bargain priced at $30 per year and include 3 packed issues of The *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication printed in glossy, full color. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, please correspond with Craig Eberhart, LSCC Secretary listed on this page.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in *The Gobrecht Journal* magazine may be addressed to Greg Johnson, Gobrecht Journal Publication Editor.

Submissions, correspondence, information and comments for this digital publication (*E-Gobrecht)* are actively encouraged from its subscribers and may be sent to Paul Kluth, E-Gobrecht Publication Editor.

To be added as a "free" subscriber to *E-Gobrecht* or removed from the mailing list or to change your email address, please send an email message indicating your preference in the subject line to: e-gobrecht@msn.com

Wanted: Submissions for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on a favorite coin, variety, neat find, happening at a coin show or local club, Liberty Seated coinage at auction, etc. If you are interested in it; rest assured, others will be too!

Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced writer to submit material of interest to others. "This is your monthly digital publication. It is what you make of it!"

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